

very darkly barred bird from Indian Territory and another from Vermilion, S. D.

In the plate I have arranged male birds in the following order: top row, old New England birds, typical ones on left, darkest individual on right. Second row; from right to left, Va., N. C., S. C. and Ga., with two typical Florida birds, *Colinus v. floridanus* at the left end. The lower row shows a series of western birds, with Illinois birds on the right and a darker Indian Territory bird on the left. The Georgia, Florida and Indian Territory specimens can always be told from those of New England, and the typical old New England bird can with fair certainty be separated from the southwestern bird, but not from that of Virginia.

To sum up: if I were asked to characterize the probable appearance of the New England quail of fifty years ago, I should say — Size large, especially the wing; mantle with a tendency to a plainer appearance and not so heavily speckled. Lower parts less heavily barred, and barring more V-shaped; whole top of head and post-ocular streak more reddish and less black: entire bird more tawny and generally somewhat lighter in tone, especially on the lower back, rump and sides.

EARLY RECORDS OF THE WILD TURKEY. IV.

BY ALBERT HAZEN WRIGHT.

(Continued from p. 81.)

The Carolinas and Georgia.

IN the seventeenth century, we have seven or eight notes of interest. In 1663, a "Report of Commissioners sent from Barbodes to Explore the River Cape Fear" has it that ¹ "The woods (are) stored everywhere with great numbers of deer and turkeys — we never going on shore but we saw of each sort."^v Several excerpts from "A Relation of A Discovery lately made on the Coast of

¹ Hawks, Francis L. History of North Carolina, 1663-1729, Vol. II, p. 31.

Florida,—London, 1664” by William Hilton pertain to this species. In Port Royal Land,¹ “the woods (abounds) with . . . Turkeys, . . .” Along Cape Fear River, “we proceeded down to a place . . . which we called *Turkie-Quarters*, because we killed several Turkeys thereabouts.” “In that time as our business called us up and down the River and Branches, we killed of wild fowl, four Swans, . . . ten Turkeys, . . .” In “A Brief Description of the Province of Carolina, London, 1666” we find that² “The Woods are stored with Deer and Wild Turkeys, of a great magnitude, weighing many times above 50 l. apiece of more tast than in *England*, being in their proper climate.”

In “Mr. Carteret’s Relation of their Planting at Ashley River 1670” occurs³ “Here is alsoe wilde Turke which the Indian brought but is not soe pleasant to eate of as the tame, but very fleshy and farr bigger.” In 1674, Henry Woodward’s “A Faithfull Relation of My Westoe Voiage” appears. While in Carolina, he supped⁴ “*wth* two fatt Turkeys to helpe *wth* parcht corne flower broth.” In another instance, “he carried along a fat Turkey for his better accommodation at night.” In 1682, we have two notes: one by T. Ashe and the other by Samuel Wilson. The former finds the⁵ “Birds for Food, and pleasure of Game, are . . . : In winter huge flights of Wild Turkeys, oftentimes weighing from twenty, thirty to forty pound.” The latter records, “Here are also in the woods, great plenty of Wild Turkeys, . . .” The last note of the century is by Richard Blome (l. c., p. 156). “Their woods and Fields (are) likewise stored with great plenty of *wild Turkeys*, . . . whose flesh is delicate Meat.”

The first note of the next century occurs in the “Journal of John Barnwell.” When 15 miles above Bathtown, he interprets the turkey’s presence as sure evidence that the enemy did not expect them.⁶

Three years later (1714), the celebrated Lawson publishes his “History of Carolina.” On a “Thousand Miles Travel among

¹ Force, P. Vol. IV, pp. 8, 10, 11, 15.

² Carroll, B. R. Hist. Colls. of S. C. New York, 1836, Vol. II, p. 12.

³ Narratives of Early Carolina, 1650–1708. New York, 1911, p. 119.

⁴ *ibid.*, p. 131.

⁵ Carroll, B. R. l. c., Vol. II, pp. 73, 28.

⁶ Va. Mag., Vol. V, No. 4, p. 401; Vol. VI, No. I, p. 44.

the Indians from South to North Carolina" he several times notes the turkey. Near Charlestown,¹ "when we approached nearer the place, we found it to be some Sewee Indians firing the cane swamps which drives out the game, then taking their particular stands, kill great quantities of both bear, deer, turkies" Near Santee River, "The Indians killed fifteen turkeys, this day, there coming out of the swamp, about sun rising, flocks of these fowl, containing several hundred in a gang, who feed upon the acorns, it being most oak that grow in these woods. Early the next morning . . . our guide killed more turkeys. Some of the turkeys which we eat whilst we staid there, I believe weighed no less than forty pounds. At night we killed a possum, being cloy'd with turkey" Later, "our fat turkeys began to be loathsome to us." "At night we lay by a swift current (Sapona), where we saw plenty of turkeys, but perched upon such lofty oaks that our guns would not kill them, though we shot very often, and our guns were very good. Some of our company shot several times at one turkey before he would fly away, the pieces being loaded with large goose shot." Concerning these oaks he speaks at greater length under his account of the wild pigeons. The note follows: "pigeons come down in quest of a small sort of acorns, which in those parts are plentifully found. They are the same we call turkey acorns, because the wild turkies feed very much thereon; and for the same reason those trees that bear them are called turkey oaks."²

In "A Letter from South Carolina, etc. Written by a Swiss Gentleman to his Friend at Bern. 2nd edit. London, 1732" we find (p. 13) that "There are tame Fowls of all sorts, and great Variety of wild Fowl, as Turkeys," "An Extract of the Journal of Mr. Commissary *Von Reck* Who conducted the First Transport of Saltzburgers to Georgia: London 1734" says³ "Night overtaking us, we were obliged to take up our Quarters upon a little Hill, and a Fire with the *Indians*, who brought us a wild Turkey for our supper." About Ebenezer, Savannah River, it holds that³ "As to

¹ Lawson, John. *The History of Carolina*, London, 1714. Reprint Raleigh, N. C., 1860, pp. 25, 50, 51, 79, 92, 231-233.

² In 1737, John Brickell in his "The Natural History of North Carolina" (Dublin, 1737, pp. 181-183) practically repeats the substance of Lawson's accounts.

³ Force, P. Vol. IV, pp. 12, 13, 36.

Game, here are. . . . Wild Turkies,” “A New and Accurate Account of the Provinces of South Carolina and Georgia, London, 1733” states that ¹ “our people that live in the country plantations procure of them (Carolina Indians) the whole deer’s flesh; and they bring it many miles for the value of six pence sterling, and a wild turkey of forty pound weight for the value of two-pence.” “A Young Gentleman” in “A New Voyage to Georgia 2nd edit. London, 1737” says ² “I met with. . . . plenty of wild turkeys,” “An Account Showing the Progress of the Colony of Georgia in America, London, 1741” finds ² “in the winter season (Savannah River) there is a variety of wild fowl, especially turkeys, some of them weighing thirty pounds,” “An Impartial Inquiry into the State and Utility of the Province of Georgia, 1741” records that ³ “Mr. Harris, who is an expert fowler, sometimes goes out with his gun, and seldom fails of bringing in either wild turkey. . . . or geese. . . .” “A Description of Georgia London 1741” states that ⁴ “There is great plenty of wild fowl, particularly turkies,”

In 1761, we have “A Description of South Carolina London.” According to it, ⁵ “the sorts of wild fowl that frequent the inland parts of the Country, are Turkeys,” In 1763, G. Milligen writes “A Short Description of the Province of South Carolina: London, 1770.” It states that ⁶ “In the woods and fields are plenty of wild turkeys, of a large size,” “The History of North America London, 1776” claims (p. 225) Georgia affords “wild turkeys from 20 to 30 pounds weight.” Hewatt in 1779 merely mentions wild turkeys are in great numbers.⁷ In 1784, J. F. D. Smyth (l. c., Vol. I, p. 149) reports that in North Carolina “There are also. . . . multitudes of. . . . wild turkies. . . .” Following him, we have Wm. Bartram. When at Broad River, he remarks (l. c., p. 45). “We at length happily accomplished our live, bringing in plenty of venison and turkeys, we had a plentiful feast at supper.”

¹ Colls. Ga. Hist. Soc. Savannah, 1840, p. 55.

² *ibid.*, Vol. II, Savannah, 1842, pp. 51, 58, 314.

³ *ibid.*, Vol. I, p. 199.

⁴ Force, P. Vol. II, p. 4.

⁵ Carroll, B. R. Vol. II, p. 250.

⁶ *ibid.*, Vol. II, p. 482.

⁷ Hewatt, Alex. An Hist. Account of South Carolina and Georgia. London, 1779, Vol. I, p. 85.

John Davis,¹ at the end of the century, tells how they used "to penetrate the woods in search of wild turkies" at Coosawhatchie.

In the nineteenth century, we have few notes. Gurney, in speaking of North Carolina, notes that ² "The elegant forms of the wild turkeys on the full run, were sometimes seen gliding through the forest" and at Savannah he notices that "Among the birds, the wild turkey is common." The following year, 1842, Buckingham finds ³ "Wild turkeys and wild ducks are in sufficient abundance to furnish game for food."

Florida.

Several of the early 16th century notes pertain to Florida. In the next century, the historical literature of the turkey is scant. In "Virginia richly valued, By the description of the mainland of Florida, her next neighbour . . . London 1609" we find ⁴ "There be many wild Hennes as big as 'Turkies. . . ." "In a Relation of the Invasion and Conquest of Florida, . . . London, 1686" we have "The Poultry are wild there, as big as Peacocks, and very plentiful."

In the eighteenth century, the roll of records is longer. The first author who mentions it is Wm. Stork who in 1766, writes that ⁵ "In the woods are plenty of wild turkeys, which are better tasted, as well as larger, than our tame ones in England." When in Florida, John Bartram 1766 records the wild turkey.⁶ In 1770, J. H. Wynne practically repeats Stork's statement. "The History of North America London 1776" has it (p. 251) that "With regard to the winged species, here are vast numbers of turkeys, . . ." In 1791 we have the extended notes of Wm. Bartram. Of St. Ille, south of Alatomaha 60 miles, he says ⁷ "Turkeys . . . are here to be

¹ Davis, John. *Travels of Four and a Half in the United States of America*; — London, 1803. N. Y., 1909 edition, p. 112.

² Gurney, J. J. *A Journey in North America* Norwich, 1841, pp. 62, 372.

³ Buckingham, J. S. *The Slave States of America*. London, 1842. Vol. I, p. 156.

⁴ Force, P. Vol. IV, p. 131.

⁵ Stork, William. *An Account of East Florida* London, 1766, p. 51.

⁶ Bartram, John. *A Journal kept . . . for the Floridas*; Jan. 14, 1766, p. 18. In Stork, *vide supra*, 3rd edit., London, 1769.

⁷ Bartram, Wm. *Travels*, pp. 18, 101, 109, 110, 179, 189, 199, 201, 235, 348, 455.

seen; but birds are not numerous in desert forests; they draw near to the habitations of men, as I have constantly observed in all my travels." Of an island in Lake George, San Juan River, he writes "There are no habitations at present on the island, but a great number of deer, turkeys, . . . and turkeys are made extremely fat and delicious from their feeding on the sweet acorns of the Live Oak." Along the San Juan River, "I, observing a flock of turkeys at some distance, on the other, (way) directed my steps towards them, and with great caution, got near them; when singling out a large cock, and being just on the point of firing, I observed that several young cocks were affrighted, and, in their language, warned the rest to be on their guard, against an enemy, whom I plainly perceived was industriously making his subtle approaches towards them, behind the fallen trunk of a tree, about twenty yards from me. This cunning fellow hunter was a large fat wild cat (lynx) he saw me, and at times seemed to watch my motions, as if determined to seize the delicious prey before me. Upon which I changed my object, and levelled my piece at him. At that instant, my companion, at a distance, also discharged his piece at the deer, the report of which alarmed the flock of turkeys and my fellow hunter, the cat, sprang over the log and trotted off." At Halfway Pond (Cuscowilla) "flocks of turkeys (were) walking in the groves around us," On Alachua savanna, he records "flocks of turkeys" and near old Alachua town "on our rout near a long projected point of the coast, we observed a large flock of turkeys; at our approach they hastened to the groves" and again "we frequently saw, . . . turkeys. . . , but they knew their safety here, keeping far enough out of our reach." When 30 miles from St. Marks, he finds "the forests and native meadows (abound) with wild game, as . . . turkeys," At Tanase he "advanced into strawberry plains to regale on the fragrant delicious fruit, welcomed by communities of the splendid meleagris. . . ."

In 1806, Priscilla Wakefield (l. c., p. 92) when at St. Juans, Fla., writes of this species as follows: "Of a morning we have been awakened by the beams of the new-risen sun, and the cheerful crowing of the wild turkey-cocks, calling to each other from the tops of the highest trees. In the spring they begin at break of day, and crow till sunrise, saluting their fellows on the return of light." Twenty-

six years later, 1832 Timothy Flint (l. c., Vol. I, p. 210.) finds at Pensacola that "wild turkeys are constantly offered for sale by the Indians." Five years previous 1827, John Lee Williams records¹ "Wild Turkey-*Meleagris americana* plenty," and in a subsequent work, 1837 he gives it more attention.² "The Wild Turkey, *meleagris Americana*, stands at the head of the festive board, and is abundant in most of the new settlements."

Mississippi, Alabama and Louisiana.

In this region the record begins with the last voyage of La Salle to discover the Mississippi. "The plains lying on one side of it" he says³ "are stored with . . . turkeys; . . ." At Maligne River, "our hunters killed . . . turkeys. . . ." On this same journey, when at Bay St. Louis he remarks,⁴ "We had also an infinite Number of Beeves. . . . Turkeys. . . ." At Le Boucon, they saw turkeys and of the country through which he passed he notices that "There are Abundance of Deer. . . . and all Sorts of wild Fowl, and more especially of Turkeys."

Du Pratz in the early part of the eighteenth century was traveling in Louisiana, and in several places in his account of his journey he mentions the turkey.⁵ "The French settlers raise in this province turkies of the same kind with those of France." In another place he notes that "Many of the women wear cloaks of the bark of the mulberry tree or of the feathers of swans, turkies or India ducks." In one instance, he writes of the turkey at some length. "I shall now proceed to speak of the fowls which frequent the woods, and shall begin with the Wild-Turky, which is very common all over the colony. It is finer, larger, and better than that of France. The feathers of the turkey are duskish grey, edged with a streak of gold colour, near half an inch broad. In the small feathers the gold-coloured streak is not above one tenth of an inch broad.

¹ Williams, John Lee. A View of West Florida, etc. Phila., 1827, p. 31.

² ———. The Territory of Florida, etc. New York, 1837, p. 73.

³ French, B. F. Hist. Colls. of La., Part I. New York, 1846, pp. 176, 136, 121.

⁴ Joutel, M. A Journal of the last Voyage Performed by M. de la Salle to the Gulph of Mexico. Translation London, 1714, pp. 62, 78, v, 82, 87.

⁵ Du Pratz, M. LeP. l. c., pp. 283, 363, 276, 277, 161.

The natives make fans of the tail, and of four tails joined together, the French make an umbrella. The women among the natives weave the feathers as our peruke-makers weave their hair, and fasten them to an old covering of bark, which they likewise line with them, so that it has down on both sides. Its flesh is more delicate — fatter and more juicy than that of ours. They go in flocks, and with a dog one may kill a great many of them. I could never procure any of the turkey's eggs, to try to hatch them, and discover whether they were as difficult to bring up in this country as in France, since the climate of both countries is almost the same. My slave told me, that in his nation they brought up the young turkies as easily as we do chickens."

Schultz (l. c., pp. 182, 184) in 1810 says "Those (birds) which may be considered as local (New Orleans) are, . . . wild turkey . . .," and 1817 Samuel R. Brown practically repeats (pp. 146, 233) the same observation. Of Mississippi, he says that "The traveller here finds . . . wild turkeys in frequent flocks." In the Nation of the Creek Indians (Ouchee River) Adam Hodgson 1820 (Mar. 20) writes ¹ "He (Landlord) gave us a plain substantial fare, which . . . (is) sometimes varied by the introduction of wild venison or wild turkies" killed by the Indians and furnished the landlord at little cost. About the same time, Thos. L. McKinney writes (l. c., p. 159) of the Chickasaw country as follows: "Nearly the whole of the country of Chickasaws, through which I had, so far, passed was poor. Wild turkeys plenty." In his trip up the Alabama River between Montgomery and Mobile, Arfwedson notes that ² "Immense quantities of wild ducks and wild turkeys were constantly disturbed by the paddles of the steamboat, but we often passed through flocks of them without causing the least fright." In "Recollections of Pioneer Life in Mississippi" by Miss Mary J. Welsh, we find that ³ "turkeys . . . were abundant" in 1833-1836. The last note to be entered in this list is by C. C. Jones. He speaks of the Choctaws who made ⁴ "turkey-feather blankets with the

¹ Hodgson, Adam. *Letters from North America*, 2 vols. London, 1824, Vol. I, pp. 118, 125.

² Arfwedson, C. D. *The United States and Canada, in 1832, 1833, and 1834*. 2 vols. London, 1834, Vol. II, p. 41.

³ Miss. Hist. Soc. Publications. Vol. IV, p. 349.

⁴ Jones, C. C. *Southern Indians*. 1873, pp. 87, 77, 322.

long feathers of the neck and breast of that fowl. The inner end of the feather was twisted and made fast in a strong double thread of hemp or coarse twine made of the inner bark of the mulberry-tree. These threads were then worked together after the manner of a fine netting. The long and glittering feathers imparted to the outside of the blanket a pleasing appearance. Such fabrics were quite warm."

Kentucky and Tennessee.

In this region we have several interesting notes. John Lederer comments on its¹ "Great variety of excellent Fowl, as wilde Turkeys," In early voyages up and down the Mississippi we find mention of this form. Cavelier's account of La Salle's Voyage remarks² "how the whole nation (of Indians) had greatly honoured them and held them for something more than men, on account of the power of their guns: that they wondered to see them kill. . . . several turkeys at a single shot." St. Cosme remarks that they took several turkeys during his voyage (before 1700). In 1700, Gravier alludes to the turkey mantles. "Sometimes they (the men) too, as well as the women, have mantles of turkey feathers. . . . well woven and worked." Of the early times in Kentucky (Boone's day) Timothy Flint asserts that³ "in the open woods, . . . turkeys were as plenty as domestic fowls in the old settlements." "In the sheltered glades, turkeys and large wild birds were so abundant, that a hunter could supply himself in an hour for the wants of a week. They would not be found like the lean and tough birds in the old settlements, that lingered around the clearings and stumps of the trees, in the topmost of whose branches the fear of man compelled them to rest, but young and fully fed." "They were never out sight of buffaloes, . . . turkeys." Of the year 1779, Rev. Mr. Davidson of Mercer County, Ky., says⁴ "A winter of un-

¹ Talbot, Sir Wm. *The Discoveries of John Lederer in three several Marches from Virginia to the West of Carolina* London, 1672, p. 25.

² Shea, John G. *Early Voyages Up and Down the Mississippi, etc.* Albany, 1861, pp. 25, 57, 134.

³ Flint, Timothy. *Biographical Memoir of Daniel Boone.* Cincinnati, 1833, pp. 36, 39, 44, 58, 241, 263.

⁴ Collins, Lewis. *Historical Sketches of Kentucky*, Cincinnati, 1847, p. 456.

exampled severity ensued; and numbers of . . . wild turkeys were found frozen to death."

During the early campaigns the turkeys often kept the wounded alive. In the autumn of 1779, Major Rodgers and Capt. Benham when near Harrodsburgh, Kentucky, so sustained themselves.¹ "Fortunately, wild turkeys were abundant in those woods, and his companion would walk around, and drive them towards Benham, who seldom failed to kill two or three of each flock. In this manner, they supported themselves for several weeks, until their wounds had healed so as to enable them to travel." In 1784 John Filson finds² "The land fowls are turkeys, which are very frequent, . . ." The same year, 1784, J. F. D. Smyth (l. c., Vol. I, p. 337) speaks in hyperbole. "Wild turkeys, very large and fat, are almost beyond number, sometimes five thousand in a flock, of which a man may kill just as many as he pleases." In 1787-1788, Mrs. Mary Dewee finds³ "The variety of deer, . . . turkeys, . . ., with which this country abounds keeps us always on the lookout, and adds much to the beauty of the scenes around us." In writing of Kentucky in 1794, Thomas Cooper says⁴ "Of wild turkies, however, there are abundance, nearly as tame as those breed in the yard. From their being extremely poor in the summer, they remain unmolested; in the winter they grow very fat, and are reckoned delicious food." The last note of the 18th century, comes the following year (1795) when Andre Michaux reports it in Tennessee. At Nashville, he says⁵ "Sunday 21st of June 1795 killed and skinned some birds. Birds: . . . a few species of the Genus *Picus*: Wild Turkeys." In Oct., 1795, he writes that on the "17th ascended the River (Cumberland) about ten Miles: there were numbers of Wild Turkeys on the banks; the Rowers and I killed five from the Canoe in passing, without landing." Finally, on Dec. 31 of the same year, he states that "most of (them) went hunting Wild Turkeys," along the Little River.

¹ McClung, John A. *Sketches of Western Adventure*: Phila. 1832, p. 171.

² Filson, J. *The Discovery, Settlement and present State of Kentucke*, Wilmington, 1784, p. 26.

³ Penn. Mag. Hist. & Biog., Vol. XXVIII, p. 195.

⁴ Cooper, T. *Some Information Respecting America*, etc. London, 1794, p. 38. *Early Western Travels*, III, pp. 33, 63, 76, 82.

In 1806, Priscilla Wakefield (l. c., pp. 135, 146) in East Tennessee "Met several flocks of wild turkeys, forty or fifty in a company." In Kentucky she records that "Wild turkeys are numerous and in the uninhabited parts so tame as to be easily shot. In autumn and winter they feed upon acorns and chestnuts. They inhabit the sides of rivers, and perch upon the tops of the highest trees." The same year, Thomas Ashe, reliable or otherwise, observes the turkey at "Kenhaway." "Several flocks of wild turkeys crossed us from the mountains to the water side, we killed two fine young birds, and could have killed forty had we been disposed to enter on the commission of unnecessary carnage." At Louisville, Ky., he writes ¹ "I killed a few young turkeys, which were exquisite in taste and flavor." Near Knoxville, Tenn., Henry Ker finds ² "The woods abound with plenty of game, such as . . . and turkies in abundance through the year." In 1817, S. R. Brown (l. c., p. 110) holds "Wild turkies are still numerous in the unsettled parts" of Kentucky. In the summer of 1818, H. R. Schoolcraft observes that along the Ohio river ³ "The wild turkey, quail and squirrel are daily met on either shore, and we find no difficulty in killing as many as we have occasion for."

In 1822-23, W. H. Blane reports (l. c., p. 260) "there (is) plenty of deer and wild turkeys in the woods" of Kentucky. About eight years later, Withers remarks that ⁴ "The body found in the salt-petre cave of Kentucky, was wrapped in blankets made of linen and interwoven with feathers of the wild turkey, tastefully arranged." The next year, 1832, T. Vigne (l. c., Vol. II, pp. 45, 57, 58) finds "Wild turkeys . . . are found in the barrens," near Glasgow, Ky. Of Mammoth Cave he writes that "In the neighbourhood of the cave, there are a great many wild turkeys, and a tolerable sprinkling of deer, but both were difficult of approach at that season of the year. I was exceedingly anxious for a shot at a wild turkey, but

¹ Ashe, Thomas. *Travels in America Performed in 1806, etc.* London, 1808, pp. 173, 235.

² Ker, Henry. *Travels through the Western Interior of the United States. From the Year 1808 up to the year 1816.* Elizabethtown, N. J., 1816, p. 311. †

³ Schoolcraft, H. R. *A View of the Lead Mines,* New York, 1819, pp. 232, 225.

⁴ Withers, Alexander S. *Chronicles of Border Warfare.* Clarksburg, Va., 1831, p. 37.

committed a great error in loading with ball only: and although I contrived to get three or four fair shots on the ground, and on the wing, yet I confess through eagerness to have missed them. Once I contrived to near a brood, but had the mortification, although close to them, to hear them rising one by one on the other side of a thicket; and when I did pull at the last bird, my gun which was loaded with shot, missed fire through the badness of the copper cap." In the same year T. Flint's "Mississippi Valley" appears. In Tennessee (l. c., p. 340) he credulously says, "A nest of eggs of the wild turkey were dug up in a state of petrification." Finally in the "Sketches and Eccentricities of Colonel David Crockett N. Y. 1835," p. 193, we find that he had a special fondness for shooting the turkey in this region.

Ohio.

In all the United States, no state had more turkeys than Ohio and her neighbors. Most of our records are restricted to the 18th century and the first part of the 19th century. In Morton's "New English Canaan 1637" we find that about¹ "Lake Erocoise" "There are also more abundance of. . . Turkeys breed about the part of that lake, then in any place in all Country of New England." Daniel Coxe in his "Carolina 2nd edit. London, 1726" (pp. 52, 79) finds "Great Companies of Turkeys" all over the country. On a journey to Ohio, Conrad Weiser on Sept. 19, 1748, notes² this form. In 1750 Christopher Gist makes a journey from Oldtown, Md., to the Ohio River. On Nov. 30, he with his men³ "killed twelve turkeys." The following year, Feb. 17, 1751, he records that the country about Little and Big Miami Rivers, "Abounds with turkeys." In the period from 1755-1759, Col. James Smith frequently encounters this form. At Ligoneer,⁴ "we found they had plenty of Turkeys, etc." Along Canesadoo-

¹ Force, P., Vol. II, p. 65.

² Colls. Hist. Soc. Penn., Vol. I, Phila., 1853, p. 33.

³ Pownall, T. A Topographical Description of Such Parts of North America, . . . , London, 1776, Appendix, p. 8, 11.

⁴ Smith, Col. James. An Account of the Remarkable Occurrences in the Life and Travels of Lexington, 1799. Reprint, Cincinnati, 1870, pp. 7, 27-31, 36, 75, 96.

harie River, "turkeys were plenty." Between this last river and Cuyahoga they took a few small turkeys; at Cedar Point, Lake Erie, and at Sandusky they killed a number of Turkeys.

Christian Frederick Post in his journal of a trip from Phila. to Ohio shows how the turkey enters the reply of an Ohio Indian:¹ "Look now, my white brother, the white people think we have no brains in our heads; but that they are great and big, and that makes them war with us: we are a little handful to what you are; but remember, when you look for a wild turkey you cannot always find it, it is so little it hides itself under the bushes." The "Journal of Captain Thomas Morris, . . . Detroit, Sept. 25, 1764" records turkeys towards the Miami country. When he reaches Miami river he says² "We were forced for want of water to stew a turkey in the fat of a raccoon; and I thought I had never eaten any thing so delicious, though salt was wanting; but perhaps it was hunger which made me think so." In 1765, George Croghan makes a journey from Fort Pitt to Vincennes and Detroit. At the mouth of the Little Kanawha River,³ "turkeys . . . are extremely plenty" (May 19) and "turkeys are very plenty on the banks of this (Scioto) River."

On June 5, 1773, Rev. David Jones⁴ "Killed some turkeys" on the Scioto River, and recorded that "This country abounds with an abundance of turkeys, some of which are very large" In 1778, Thomas Hutchins finds that in the Ohio river region⁵ "a great variety of game; . . . as well as . . . turkies . . . abounds in every part of this country." In the region from the mouth of Great Kanawaha to Monogohela River turkies "abound" as also in the Lake Erie country. Of this same country at the same period, Dr. Knight writes that⁶ "In all parts of the country through which I came, the game was very plenty, that is to say, deer, turkies and

¹ Early Western Travels, Vol. I, p. 215.

² *Ibid.*, pp. 310, 311, 321.

³ The Olden Time, Vol. I, 1846, Pittsburgh, pp. 405, 407.

⁴ Cist, Charles. Cincinnati Miscellany. Vol. I, 1845, p. 265; Vol. II, pp. 11, 232.

⁵ Hutchins, Thomas. A Topographical Description of Virginia, Pennsylvania, Maryland, and North Carolina, London, 1778, pp. 4, 12.

⁶ Narratives of the Perils and Sufferings of Dr. Knight and John Slover among the Indians during the Revolutionary War, 1st edit., 1782, Pittsburgh, 3rd. edit., Cincinnati, 1867, p. 30.

pheasants." In the Journal of General Butler (1785) we have at least sixteen references to the abundance of turkeys along the Ohio River. He records them at the mouths of the Muskingum, the Big Hockhocking, the Kanawaha, the Louisa, the Little Miami, and the Licking Rivers and Big Bone Creek. In the Kanawha territory,¹ "we had great sport among the turkeys. . . ." Above Kanawha, "here we having nothing to do but spring from our boats among flocks of turkeys, kill as we please, for sport or gust, I have just stepped from my boat and killed at one shot two fine turkeys, and our whole party feasts on fine venison, bear meat, turkeys. . . . procured by themselves at pleasure." Near Big Hockhocking River, "our hunter . . . killed . . . many fine turkeys, which we distributed among the families and troops with us," and finally he writes, "I cannot help here describing the amazing plenty and variety of this night's supper. We had fine roast buffalo beef, soup of buffalo beef and turkeys, fried turkeys, fried catfish fresh caught, roast ducks, good punch, madeira, claret, grog, toddy and the troops supplied in the most abundant manner."

In 1788, Col. James May reports in nine different instances the wild turkey in this same region. Around Hockhocking, his hunters in three days secure seven turkeys and seven deer.² "He might have killed any quantity but it is the season when they are not fat." In another place, he says "Our luck has been . . . to have good provisions. . . . the best of bread, fine venison and turkeys." The same year, George Henry Loskiel writes of this form as follows:³ "*Wild Turkeys* (Maleagris gallopavo) flock together in autumn in great numbers, but disperse in the woods towards spring. They are larger than the tame turkeys, and commonly perch so high upon the trees, that they cannot be shot but with a ball. In winter their plumage is of a shining black but changes in summer to a light brown with white spots upon the wings. Their eggs are much

¹ The Olden Time, Vol. II, pp. 441, 443, 444, 445, 447, 448, 452, 454, 462, 492, 495, 496, 497, 505, 507.

² Journal and Letters of Col. James May of Boston, Relative to Two Journeys to the Ohio Country in 1788 and 1789. Cincinnati, 1788, pp. 44, 49, 69, 72, 74, 78, 83, 89, 91.

³ Loskiel, G. H. History of the Mission of the United Brethren among the Indians in North America. In three parts. Translated by C. I. Latrobe. London, 1791. Part I, pp. 91, 48.

sought after, and relished by the Indians. There is a species of wild turkies, which are not eatable their flesh having a most disagreeable flavor." In speaking of the dress of Indian men, he says "Formerly these coverings were made of turkey feathers, woven together with the thread of wild hemp, but these are now seldom seen." Two years later, 1790, Chas. Johnston finds that ¹ "During the whole march (through Sciota country) we subsisted on bears meat, . . . turkeys . . . with which we were abundantly supplied, as the ground over which we passed afforded every species of game in profusion, diminishing however, as we approached their villages." About this same time, George Inlay discovers that ² "The rapidity of the settlement has driven the wild turkey quite out of the middle countries; but they are found in large flocks in all our extensive woods." On Aug. 18, 1793, Andre Michaux ³ "saw several flocks of wild Turkeys" beyond Wheeling.

The "Struggles of Capt. Thomas Keith in America" (p. 16) has it that in 1794 along the Ohio River, "The wild turkies were calling to each other from the lofty branches of the oak." In 1796, Brackenridge ascends the Ohio. In one case he remarks that ⁴ "once, having encamped somewhat later than usual, in the neighborhood of a beautiful grove of sugar-trees, we found, after kindling our fires, that a large flock of turkeys had taken up their night's lodgings over our heads: some ten or twelve of them were soon taken down for our supper and breakfast. But it was not often we were so fortunate." In 1796 and 1797, Francis Baily when at Little Miami River, ⁵ "saw great quantities of wild turkeys; so that we had not any prospect of extreme want whilst we were here." One other party notes it in this century. John Heckewelder with three companions in the summer of 1797 mentions the turkey in his narrative. They encounter it in a trip to Gnadenhuetten on the Muskingum, and say, ⁶

¹ A Narrative of Incidents Attending the Capture, Detention, and Ransom of Charles Johnston, . . . 1790. . . . New York, 1827, p. 46.

² Inlay, George. A Topographical Description of the Western Territory of North America, . . . 2nd edit., London, 1793, pp. 100, 243.

³ Early Western Travels, III, p. 33.

⁴ Brackenridge, H. M. Recollections of Persons and Places in the West. 2nd edit. Phila., 1868, p. 30.

⁵ Baily, Francis. Journal of a Tour in Unsettled Parts of North America in 1796 and 1797. London, 1856, p. 209.

⁶ Penn. Mag. Hist. and Biog., Vol. VI, pp. 138, 142, 144, 146.

"The programme for each day was arranged in the following manner: In the morning at daybreak we were awakened by the cackling of the turkeys. . . ."

Shortly after (1803) the beginning of the nineteenth century, Thaddeus Mason Harris (l. c., p. 51) says, "the vast number of turkeys, . . . we saw upon the shore (Ohio River below Wheeling). . . . afforded us constant amusement." In 1806, T. Ashe (l. c. pp. 160, 111, 113, 130, 134, 135, 144, 145) gives "Wild Turkey Meleagris Gallopavo" in his list of birds, records it at Wheeling and Marietta and writes of it at considerable length when at the latter place, and near Zanesville. His account follows: "The wild turkey is excellent food, and has this remarkable property, that the fat is never offensive to the stomach. When Kentucky was first settled it abounded with turkeys to such a degree that the settlers said the light was often interrupted by them. Though this may be considered a figure, still it is well known that they were extremely numerous, so much so that he was esteemed an indifferent sportsman who could not kill a dozen in a day. Even at this time they are sold in Lexington market for half a dollar a pair. They are, notwithstanding becoming very scarce, and, addicted as all classes of people in that state are to an intemperate predilection for destroying every living aboriginal creature, their total extinction must be near at hand. They yet abound in this Ohio State, and possibly will, for many years; till it becomes more peopled." "I cannot pretend that wild turkeys differ in any striking manner from the domestic ones I have everywhere seen, except the length of their wings; their superior plumage, their attitude and lively expression in walking. The cock too has a beard composed of about one hundred hairs which hangs in a streamer from under the beak. The hair is thicker than a pig's bristle, and the length accords with the age. In the young the beard is hardly perceptible, in the old it descends more than half a foot. I have killed a wild turkey cock which weighed thirty pounds and whose beard was ten inches long: the flesh was execrable, nearly as hard as iron, and as black as jet. The young on the contrary are white and tender, delicate meat, and of exquisite flavor. Wild turkeys are gregarious. The flocks from fifty to sixty. They are migratory. They winter to the southward and return in the spring to the deepest recesses of the woods, where

they construct their nests with such care and concealment, that few instances ever occur of the eggs or young being found. Where eggs have been obtained and hatched under a domestic turkey, the young shew great disposition to thrive and remain about the house very contentedly till their first spring, when they rise, without indicating a previous talent for flying, into the air, take a few circles round the heads of their old friends and make for a wilderness whence they never more return." "As evening approached, I was much pleased to come in view of a flock of wild turkeys. I wished to have an opportunity of observing their action — the one afforded me was of the best it possibly could be: they were travelling before me — therefore occasioned no loss of way. The flock consisted of about thirty-four, on the ground, searching for food: they were not considerably alarmed till I had approached them within sixty yards. They then moved on a kind of long hop and run, stopped, and as we gained on them proceeded in the same way. On a nearer approach, they took short flights, rose above the trees, and lighted upon them at intermediate spaces of about thirty rods. At every rest I instructed Cuff to gobble in their manner. This act appeared to attract their attention and retard their flight; and, what was of more consequence, they made responses, which guided our pursuit when they were obstructed from view by the thick ombrage of the woods, and the fast approach of night. They finally went a more considerable distance; and as I judged, to a favorite place to roost. I still had the good fortune to keep in their track, and to come directly on the spot they had chosen for their rest. They rose up with much perturbation and noise, and again descended to rest. The whole gang occupied four trees, and still they rose, fell and acted with one accord. I resolved to fire on them. I had heard, that whenever wild turkeys settled to roost, there they remained in spite of all opposition. My motive in firing then was to ascertain the fact. On the first shot they all rose with great clamour about thirty yards above the summits of the trees, and as instantaneously descended direct upon them. On firing again, similar circumstances occurred, and at a third discharge no variation succeeded, nor did they betray the least disposition to depart effectually and remove their quarters. My first discharge was with a ball, which brought down a very fine bird, the two last merely powder — but I

regard the fact to be ascertained as firmly as if I had killed the whole flock. This dull propensity in these animals must ultimately operate to their destruction. There is no manner of doubt but had such a flock come within reach of a sportsman of the Virginia shore, he would have brought every one of them to the ground."

In 1812, James L. Barton when at Tymoctee Creek, finds that ¹ "the wild turkeys began to gobble in the woods (at daylight), and they made nearly as much noise" as the wolves during the night. In the "History of Athens Co., O.," Chas. M. Walker (l. c., p. 486, 479) asserts that in 1810 "turkeys were very plenty" and in 1820 in the fall season the settlers killed "turkeys beyond count for the winter stock." In his "Pedestrious Tour, Concord, N. H. 1819," Estwick Evans says that west of the Connecticut Reserve ² "Wild Turkeys too, are here numerous, and they sometimes weigh from 20 to 30 pounds." Two years later, 1821, Schoolcraft when along the banks of Auglaize near Defiance, O., reports that ³ "Tracks . . . of the meleagris gallipavo or turkey, were frequently noticed in our path; and these indigenous species of the American forest, are represented to be still abundant in this quarter." In 1822, James Flint on the Ohio river recounts how he ⁴ "saw a man fire a shot at a flock of wild turkeys. These fowl were so far from being coy, that they flew only a little way, and alighted again on the trees." When 13 miles from Chillicothe, he says "A few . . . turkeys remain It does not require a thick population to exterminate bears, deer and turkeys." The same year, John Woods when at Troy, O., ⁵ "passed fourteen or fifteen wild turkeys, in a field. As they only gently walked into the woods, I did not suspect they were wild ones; but mentioning them at the cabin, I was told there were no tame turkeys for some miles, but plenty of wild ones." T. Vigne already quoted (l. c., p. 87, reports turkeys for Mansfield, O., in 1832 but asserts that "However, I met with no turkey,"

(*To be concluded.*)

¹ Barton, J. L. *Early Reminiscences of Western New York and the Lake Region Country.* Buffalo, 1848, p. 52.

² *Early Western Travels*, Vol. VIII, p. 195 (orig. p. 96).

³ Schoolcraft, H. R. *Travels in Central Portions of the Mississippi Valley.* New York, 1825, p. 71.

⁴ *Early Western Travels*, Vol. IX, pp. 112 (orig. p. 88) 120, 121 (orig. p. 96).

⁵ *ibid.*, Vol. X, pp. 249, 250 (orig. p. 122).